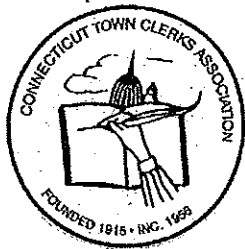


Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

Committee Members

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Debra H. Denette, V-CH East Haddam
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Mary Stanton, Mansfield
Betsy Moukawsher, Groton
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Lobbyist: Michael Dugan

TESTIMONY

February 13, 2015

Government Administration and Elections Committee

OPPOSE: Proposed Bill 601

An Act Eliminating Over voting for a Candidate

Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and the distinguished members of the GAE Committee. The Connecticut Town Clerks Association opposes Proposed Bill 601 An Act Eliminating Overvoting for a Candidate as it is currently presented.

The proposed language would require the voting tabulator to reject a ballot when an overvote has occurred; it further proposes that the elector shall be given a new ballot for the purpose of casting such elector's vote. This amended language does not take into account those voting by either Absentee or EDR. Those voters will not be present when the tabulator rejects the ballot, accordingly, there would be no opportunity for those Voters to correct the ballot as proposed with this Bill.

It would be the Clerks recommendation to allow an overvoted ballot to be counted, as the intent of the voter is clear. It is further recommended that the complicated "widget" formulas that are in place to address an overvote be removed and a new process to simply divide "unknown" votes evenly among each line the cross-endorsed candidate appears be substituted.

SUPPORT: Bill No 6745

An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Municipal Campaign Finance filings

The Connecticut Town Clerks Association wholeheartedly supports Bill 6745; An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Municipal Campaign Finance Filings. The Town Clerks Association agrees that having one central repository for Campaign Finance Filings that maintains an on-line presence would increase both accessibility and transparency. Additionally, The Clerk's Association has confidence in the SEEC to develop policies and practices that will safeguard this information longer than our retention schedule dictates while alleviating any confusion regarding "where to file" on the part of Candidates or Committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra H Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk, Vice-Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee